This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A commodity control system comprising:

a <u>computer</u> processor;

information storage means configured to store a commodity control byte data for each of a plurality of commodities, the commodity control byte data comprising a commodity identification information for identifying the commodity, manufacturer information associated with a plurality of manufacturers that have manufactured the commodity and client information associated with a plurality of clients that have acquired the commodity;

communication means for communicating with an external device; and

information processing means, operated by the <u>computer</u> processor, for controlling the operation of each of the means, wherein the information processing means is configured to:

a)   correlate commodity identification information with manufacturer information associated with one of the plurality of manufactures to receive correlated information from a manufacturer terminal through the communication means,

b)   collate the received commodity identification information with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means,

c)   specify, when the received commodity identification information has been matched with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means as a result of the collation, the commodity identified by the received identification information,

d)   extend, in a linear fashion, the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity by adding the received manufacturer information to the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity and store the commodity control byte data to the storage means,

e)   correlate commodity identification information for identifying the commodity with client information associated with one of the plurality of clients to receive correlated information from a client terminal through the communication means,

f)   collate the received commodity identification information with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means,

g)   specify, when the received commodity identification information has been matched with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means as a result of the collation, the commodity identified by the received identification information, and

h)   extend, in a linear fashion, the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity by adding add the received client information to the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity and store the commodity control byte data to the storage means.

4.   (Original) The commodity control system according to claim 3, characterized in that

the processing means receives the commodity identification information or the manufacturer information from an information searcher terminal through the communication means, reads out the client information correlated with the received identification information or manufacturer information from the storage means, and transmits the read client information to the information searcher terminal.

5.   (Original) The commodity control system according to claim 3, characterized in that

the processing means receives the client information from the information searcher terminal through the communication means, reads out from the storage means the identification information or/and manufacturer information correlated with the received client information, and transmits the read identification information or/and manufacturer information to the information searcher terminal.

6.   (Original) The commodity control system according to claim 3, characterized in that

the processing means receives the commodity identification information from the information searcher terminal through the communication means, reads out from the storage means the manufacturer information correlated with the received identification information, and transmits the read manufacturer information to the information searcher terminal.

7.   (Original) The commodity control system according to claim 3, characterized in that

the processing means receives the commodity manufacturer identification information from the information searcher terminal through the communication means, reads out from the storage means the identification information correlated with the received manufacturer information, and transmits the read identification information to the information searcher terminal.

8.   (Original) The commodity control system according to claim 2 or 3, wherein

the storage means stores the manufacturer information, including process information of manufacturing processes in the manufacturer,

the processing means receives, when the received manufacturer information is added to the storage means for each of the specified commodities, the process information included in the manufacturer information from the manufacturer terminal through the communication means for each of the manufacturing processes, and also adds the process information included in the received manufacturer information to the storage means for each of the manufacturing processes.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for controlling commodity, the method comprising:

correlating, via a computer, a commodity identification information for identifying a commodity with a manufacturer information associated with one of a plurality of manufactures that have manufactured the commodity to receive a correlated identification information from a manufacturer terminal through a communication means;

collating the received commodity identification information with commodity identification information stored in a storage means;

specifying, when the received commodity identification information has been matched with a commodity identification information stored in the storage means as a result of the collation, the commodity identified by the received identification information;

extending, in a linear fashion, a commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity by adding the received manufacturer information to the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity and store the commodity control byte data to the storage means;

correlating the commodity identification information with client information associated with one of a plurality of clients that have acquired the commodity to receive the correlated information from a client terminal through the communication means;

collating the received commodity identification information with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means;

specifying , when the received commodity identification information has been matched with the commodity identification information stored in the storage means as a result of the collation, the commodity identified by the received identification information; and

extending, in a linear fashion, the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity by adding add the received client information to the commodity control byte data associated with the specified commodity and store the commodity control byte data to the storage means.

11. (New) The method commodity control according to claim 3, wherein the commodity control byte data is extended such that data in the commodity control byte data is arranged in a row direction, the commodity control byte data comprises a first portion identifying the

manufacturer information, and a second portion adjacent to the first portion in a row direction

identifying the client information, and the commodity control byte data is extended such that the

arrangement of data indicates an order of a manufacturing channel in a row direction and an

order of transaction processes in a row direction.

12. (New) The method commodity control according to claim 11, wherein the commodity

control byte data is extended such that manufacturer information associated with a first

manufacturer of the plurality of the manufacturers is arranged adjacent, in a row direction, to a

second manufacturer of the plurality of the manufacturers.

13. (New) The method commodity control according to claim 11, wherein the commodity

control byte data is extended such that client information associated with a first client of the

plurality of the clients is arranged adjacent, in a row direction, to a second client of the plurality

of the clients.

14. (New) The method commodity control according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of

commodities comprises raw materials and the plurality of manufactures comprise a dealer of raw

materials.